

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
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NEWS RELEASE
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**MIDDLEBORO MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR SHOOTING WOMAN
TO DEATH WITH GUN STOLEN FROM HER HOME**

BROCKTON – A Middleboro man has been sentenced to life in prison for fatally shooting a woman in her own home with a rifle he stole from her husband's gun safe, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz announced today.

A Plymouth County jury deliberated just two hours before finding Thomas Buttimer (DOB: 09/07/60) guilty last Monday, November 9, 2015. Today, Judge C.J. Moriarty sentenced Buttimer to serve life in prison without the possibility of parole on the Murder charge. He was additionally sentenced to serve 18-20 years in State Prison to run concurrent on the Armed Assault with Intent to Murder charge and one year in the House of Corrections on each of the three Firearms Possession charges, the Possession of Ammunition charge and the Larceny of a Firearm charge. Buttimer was sentenced to serve four to five years in State Prison for the Assault and Battery with a Deadly Weapon.

"Mrs. DesRoche was a mom, wife, sister, grandmother and nurse," DA Cruz said. "The full life she lived was evidenced by the packed courtroom of supporters today who came to see Mr. Buttimer sent to State Prison and ensure that justice was done for her."

On July 12, 2013, at approximately 12:03 am, police responded to a 911 call from a man at 174 Highland Street who reported that he had found his wife, Norma DesRoche, 65, on the stairs and was bleeding and non-responsive. Middleboro Fire were first on scene and were inside the home gathering information when a Middleboro sergeant stepped out of the home to call for backup. At that same time, Buttimer appeared from a nearby wooded area and pointed a rifle at the sergeant. The Middleboro sergeant ordered Buttimer to drop the rifle several times before he fired and struck Buttimer.

DesRoche was taken to Tobey Hospital where she was pronounced dead a short time later. An autopsy later determined the cause of death to be a single gunshot wound to the DesRoche's chest.

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A search of the home revealed that Buttimer used a shovel to break into a gun safe located in the basement. Three rifles had been removed, including the rifle that Buttimer used to fire the fatal shot at Mrs. DesRoche and point at the Middleboro sergeant.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Jessica Kenny and Josh Gedraitis and was investigated by State Police Detectives assigned to the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office and Middleboro Police.

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